GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4126
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
CONSTRUCTION OF INDIAN EMBASSY BUILDING IN BRAZIL
Bishnoi Shri Kuldeep

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Brazil had gifted a plot in 1965 for construction of Indian Embassy there;

(b) if so, the reasons for the inordinate delay in construction of Indian Embassy Building in Brazil;

(c) the total amount spent so far by the Union Government as rent on the Indian Embassy Building in Brazil; and

(d) the efforts made by the Government to get the construction of Indian Embassy Building completed in Brazil at the earliest?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS(RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Action on this project was initiated right in the year 1965 by identifying an architect, but the project got repeatedly delayed because of unavoidable circumstances. In the 1970s, the Government introduced an economic austerity drive in view of the 1971 conflict followed by the oil crisis. Efforts were renewed in the 80s. However, because of the inflationary situation in Brazil, the project was found to be economically unviable, especially in view of the exorbitantly high cost of construction and relatively lower rentals. Thereafter, the Gulf war in 1990 resulted in projects abroad being put on hold. Efforts were revived in the mid 90s but economic viability of the project could still not be established. Downward trend in cost of construction was noted starting the year 2000. However, the economic situation took some more time to settle down following which the process of selection of a new architect was put in motion resulting in a formal appointment in the year 2004.

(c) Records are available since 1982 and, so far, a sum of Rs.17.158 crore has been spent towards rentals for the Chancery, Embassy Residence and other residences.

(d) Now that the situation has stabilized, action on the project has already been initiated. The Government is making all efforts to expedite the construction project. A local architect has been selected and drawings and estimates for the construction project have been prepared.